



Belmont Human Rights Commission

Belmont Town

**Hall
September 15, 2010**

Members present: Carl Brauer, Julie Cicalese, Chuck Laverty, Connie Williams, Fran Yuan

Members not present: Lisa Berndt, Nan Donald, Paul Solomon

Meeting convened at 7:05 p.m.

1. Membership: Discussed potential member, Sonia Boyajian, who is interested but not a Belmont resident. She is not able to be a member. ~She is a realtor and it would be good to have her perspective from the inside. ~She described landlords not always being aware of the laws. Carl met a young man from Belmont that he may approach about being a member.
2. Phone line: Connie will do September; ~Carl will do October; Chuck will do November; and Julie will do December. Might be good also to put phone line info in the paper again. ~
3. Meet Belmont seemed crowded, smaller space so much more crowded.
4. League of Women Voters sponsoring a debate between Rep. Brownsberger and the other candidate for State Rep. ~Election panel is on Tuesday 10/19/10 at Chenery School. ~If more on 40B and Community Preservation Act (CPA), Fran will let us know.
5. Had some discussion about whether as a town appointed body, we should be getting involved or take a stand on proposed legislation. ~Discussed in relation to "no on 2" campaign and CPA. Had some conversation about details of 40B and CPA problems and differences. We need to clarify with Selectman whether it is appropriate for us to support or take a stand on either.
6. Venues: Fran has not confirmed both but think we are at Waverly Woods for our next meeting. Discussed how we want to structure meeting. Chuck described how they structured the Housing Trust meeting at Waverly Woods. ~Connie asked about our purpose. Fran said it is to let them know we exist. ~Chuck shared that the meeting attendees had described how difficult it

was to get into town and that they didn't feel like Belmont residents. Fran will ask Nancy Marsh to give us some demographic information which should help us think about some of the issues. ~Chuck said the main point was that the residents at Waverly Woods felt detached from the town. Carl raised that one of our reasons to do this is to get out in the community.

Some questions we may want to ask are: what are the obstacles, what are some of the good things you have found in coming here. ~Connie suggested we use more neutral language, describe our charge and then see what they perceive as needs.

7. One Book One Belmont will be Dark Tide by Stephen Puleo -- as long as they can get the author to come. ~There are some parts around immigration and employee rights so there is a human rights connection. We can wait and then take a vote if we want to sponsor one of the events.

8. MLK breakfast planning meeting next Thursday 23rd, 7-9 in the library. Sources of funding including BAR.

9. For this year's activity, ~if we don't do the panel on 40 B, we should continue to think about other ideas.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.